

REMARKS

On July 11, 2005, Applicants filed an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) in this application. Enclosed herewith is a copy of an International Preliminary Report on Patentability (IPRP) which was mailed on 31 August 2006 in the corresponding PCT application. It is noted that the IPRP discusses documents that were cited in the IDS.

The present amendment of claim 1 incorporates therein a feature recited in original claim 3. No new matter is introduced by this Preliminary Amendment.

CONTACT

Should there be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Richard Gallagher (Reg. No. 28,781) at (703) 205-8008.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By  # 28, 781

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